

# Accommodation

Although student dormitories operated by local governments and universities are available, approximately 75% of international students are living in private houses or apartments. Once you receive your letter of acceptance, you should start gathering information about housing immediately. Some ways to get this information include 1) your school's international student office, 2) the Internet and informational magazines, and 3) real estate agents in areas you are interested in living in.

## Student dormitory

### Advantages

- Lower expenses
- Less necessity to purchase electric appliances, etc.

### Disadvantages

- Due to limited numbers of rooms available, not all students can stay in dormitories.
- Rules such as curfew and wake-up time
- Shared kitchen, toilet and bathroom

### A little advice

## Guidelines for monthly housing expenses

Student dormitory: JPY 28,000  
(For the JASSO Tokyo Japanese Language Education Center)

Apartment: Varies significantly depending on the popularity of the nearest train station, the distance to the nearest train station, the age of the building, etc. In more rural areas, you may find an apartment for around JPY 30,000 to 40,000 a month, but within Tokyo JPY 60,000 would be a reasonable target.

### A little advice

## Taking out the garbage

Japan has strict rules regarding garbage disposal, and failure to follow them can be a source of conflict with neighbors. Be sure to separate your garbage properly and dispose of it in the specified location(s) at the specified times.



## Apartment

### Advantages

- Your own life rhythm
- Development of sense of the value of money

### Disadvantages

- When renting an apartment or private house, you will have to pay up front *shiki-kin* (security deposit equal to a few months' rent), *rei-kin* (gratuity money) and real estate agent's commissions, among other things.
- Complicated rental agreements
- Need to purchase all furniture and electrical appliances

### Joint guarantor

A joint guarantor is required when renting an apartment in Japan. If you do not pay the rent on time or cause damage without paying for repairs, the landlord can demand that the joint guarantor pay for the overdue rent or repairs. There is a system in which school-related persons (student office or teaching staff) can serve as joint guarantors for international students with limited Japanese connections. A joint guarantor may not be needed if you conclude a contract that requires the payment of a guarantee charge.

### Comprehensive Renters' Insurance for Foreign Students Studying in Japan

This insurance program, which is managed by the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services (JEES), is designed to cover unexpected emergencies, such as fire, and to help an international student avoid unnecessarily inconveniencing his/her joint guarantor. To find out if you are eligible for this insurance program, please contact the school in which you are currently enrolled or will be enrolled.

## Points of accommodation search

- 1) Rent and initial costs?
- 2) Distance from school and time required to reach the school?
- 3) Size and equipment of the room?
- 4) Convenience of surrounding environment (distance to public transport and convenience for shopping)?

